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A.—(*a*) The Tuticorin Municipal Council was levying water-supply and drainage tax at the rate of 8 to 9 per cent per annum between the years 1915 and 1924. The tax was suspended in the year 1924–25. The Municipal Council has since been levying the tax at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. The Chief Engineer has been asked to see that the remaining works are carried out expeditiously and that no avoidable delays are allowed to occur.

(*d*) About June 1932.

Education

Alleged running of certain classes for the Sarada Vidyalaya in the Widows' Home.

530 *Q*.—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Sister Subbalakshmi Ammal has been running a certain number of classes in the Widows' Home under her own private management and control;

(*b*) whether she has obtained the previous permission of Government for running these classes in addition to her work for Sarada Vidyalaya, Mylapore, for which she has been honorary correspondent; and

(*c*) whether the sanction of Government has been obtained for holding these classes in the Home and if so, what rent is paid by her therefor?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No. No rent has ever been collected.

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

II.—BILLS.

(1) THE NAMBUDIRI BILL.

11-45 a.m. * The hon. the President:—" The House will now resume consideration of the motion on the Nambudiri Bill."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Sir, with reference to this Bill, as in the case of my Friend, Mr. Narayanan Nambiyar's Bill, I have given notice of an exactly similar amendment, namely, that this Bill No. 14 of 1931 of Mr. Madhusoodhanan Thangal be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon. I move that amendment.

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"As I said, with reference to the Bill of my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanan Nambiyar, this Bill also deals with social legislation. My hon. Friend, Mr. Madhusoodhanan Thangal, proposes to introduce, by his Bill, some drastic changes in the customs that now govern the community. For instance, in this community of the Nambudiri, as in the case of people following the Marumakkattayam Law, the Law of partition does not obtain. One of the chapters included in the Bill of my hon. Friend, Mr. Madhusoodhanan Thangal, enables individual members of the family to claim a partition in the family property. As I said with reference to the Bill of my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanan Nambiyar, with regard to this Bill also, the Government do not wish to say anything about the desirability or otherwise of introducing this measure. The Government want to have the opinions of the members of the community. I am not referring to all the changes that my hon. Friend wants to introduce by the Bill. My hon. Friend, Mr. Madhusoodhanan Thangal, wants to introduce, in certain respects, the Mithakshara Law of Inheritance among these classes of people who are now not governed by that Law. With reference to that point also, the Government wish to have information. For these and other reasons, I move my amendment. With reference to this amendment also as in the case of my amendment to the Bill of my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanan Nambiyar, I can give this undertaking on behalf of the Government, *viz.*, that we shall get the information as early as possible, in any case, before the 10th January 1932. In view of these observations of mine, I hope the hon. Member will not press his amendment."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second this amendment."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment—

'*that the Nambudiri Bill* (*Bill No.* 14 *of* 1931) *of Mr. P. Madhusoodhanan Thangal be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon and that such opinion be obtained and placed on the table of the House before the next meeting of the Council.*'

"The hon. the Law Member has, of course, given us the assurance that he will have the Bill circulated and get the opinions before the 10th January next. But I do not know whether the Legislative Council Office or the Secretariat department is going to get the reports from the Collectors and other people. In order to give a direction to the Legislative Department to place the opinion on the table of the House before the next meeting, this motion is absolutely necessary. With that object I move this motion."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I second this motion."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I may assure my hon. Friend that the Council Office and the Government Secretariat are working in co-operation in matters like these. But if my hon. Friend is very particular about this amendment being passed, I have no objection. The amendment wants that the opinion must be obtained and placed on the table of the House before the next meeting. Opinions can certainly be obtained by that time and the Government

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will make an earnest attempt to place them on the table of the House. But the date of the next meeting has not yet been definitely settled and there may be some difficulty."

The motion of the hon. the Law Member was by leave withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan was put and carried.

(2) THE TIRUMALAI-TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS BILL.

*Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" Mr. President, Sir, I move that the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Bill[a] (Bill No. 15 of 1931), and move that it be referred to the same Select Committee as the one to which the Bill of Mr. Manikkavelu Nayakar has been referred."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" I second the motion."

The motion was put and carried.

(3) THE MARUMAKKATTAYAM BILL.

* Mr. R. M. PALAT:—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that the Marumakkattayam Bill[a] (Bill No. 20 of 1931) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

(1) The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar.
(2) The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
(3) Dr. P. Subbarayan.
(4) Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.
(5) Mr. C. Krishnan.
(6) Mr. P. Madhusoodhanan Thangal.
(7) Khan Bahadur T. M. Moidoo Sahib.
(8) B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur.
(9) Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar.
(10) Mr. A. B. Shetty.
(11) Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt.
(12) Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
(13) Mr. F. E. James.
(14) Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.
(15) Mover.

" As has already been mentioned in this Council last Saturday, this is not the first time that a Bill to alter the Marumakkattayam Law has been before the House. Marumakkattayam Law is the system of law by which rights to property are governed by and solely by relationships traced through females. The essence of inheritance in this system is descent from a female as distinct from descent from a male.

" The late Mr. Justice Muthuswami Ayyar in his memorandum as President of the Malabar Marriage Commission of 1890 describes the Marumakkattayam family or tarwad as follows:—

'It consists of several mothers and children and their descendants in the female line all tracing their descent from a common female ancestor and living

[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 18th August 1931.